

**Central Intelligence Agency**  
Washington, D.C. 20505

DCI/DDCI Executive Staff

29 October 1987

NOTE FOR: DCI

FROM:

STAT

Attached is the latest we have on the Philippine situation. Enclosed is an update done by the Office of East Asian Analysis in the DI, a State cable reporting on the recent incident, and a copy of this morning's PDB article.

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 INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 35126  
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 USCINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA  
 E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, RP  
 SUBJECT: ASSASSINATIONS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN:  
 - MISSION ASSESSMENT  
 REFS: A) MANILA 34881 B)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: EVIDENCE IS ACCUMULATING THAT THE NPA WAS BEHIND THE KILLING OF THREE AMERICAN MILITARY MEN OUTSIDE OF CLARK AIR BASE WEDNESDAY AND THAT THERE MAY BE MORE SUCH ASSASSINATIONS, POSSIBLY IN MANILA. ONE SOURCE CLAIMS THE NPA CHANGED ITS POLICY BECAUSE OF WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS A GROWING U.S. ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNTERINSURGENCY PROGRAM. THE SHOOTINGS ARE PROBABLY ALSO INTENDED TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION. PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO MISSION SECURITY CONCERNS, BUT PAST EXPERIENCE RAISES QUESTIONS WHETHER THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO MUCH TO APPREHEND THE GUILTY OR PROTECT AMERICAN

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PERSONNEL IN THE COUNTRY. THE MISSION IS ADVISING U.S. EMPLOYEES AND U.S. CITIZENS AGAINST UNNECESSARY TRAVEL TO CLARK AREA AND TO TAKE SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. END SUMMARY

3. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT THE NPA OCTOBER 17 ADOPTED A NEW POLICY COUNTRYWIDE OF KILLING AMERICANS. THE SOURCE ASCRIBED THE CHANGE TO WHAT THE CPP/NPA PERCEIVES AS A GROWING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORT. CALLS ALLEGEDLY FROM THE NPA TO A FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE AND THE U.S. MILITARY FLIGHT DESK AT THE AIRPORT OCTOBER 29 CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNISTS FOR THE CLARK SHOOTINGS.

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4. WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENTS COME AMIDST A RECENT SHARP INCREASE IN NPA ASSASSINATION ACTIVITY AGAINST PHILIPPINE POLICE AND MILITARY IN MANILA. DURING THE PAST WEEK, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE TEN SUCH KILLINGS IN THE CAPITAL. THE CLARK EPISODE OCCUPIED BANNER HEADLINES TODAY IN PRACTICALLY ALL THE LOCAL PAPERS. MOST WRITERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THE NPA IS RESPONSIBLE. THE LAST TIME THE NPA KILLED AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WAS THREE NAVY OFFICERS AT SUBIC BAY IN 1974.

5. WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS HAVING BEEN RESPONSIBLE. THESE WOULD INCLUDE RIGHTIST ELEMENTS WHO WANT THE KILLINGS TO APPEAR TO BE THE WORK OF THE NPA. THE MOTIVE WOULD BE TO KEEP THE POLITICAL POT BOILING AND TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION BY DRAMATIZING GOVERNMENT INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE INSURGENCY OR TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES. IT IS ALSO CONCEIVABLE THAT IRANISANS OR LYBIANS HIRED FILIPINOS TO GUN DOWN THE SERVICEMEN AS RETALIATION FOR AMERICAN MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. PHILIPPINE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE RESPONDED QUICKLY TO TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE PERPETRATORS AND HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PROTECT AMERICANS IN THE MANILA AND ANGELES AREAS. THE METRODISCOM IN ANGELES ESTABLISHED CHECKPOINTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. NONETHELESS, THE POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTABLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN SOLVING SUCH CASES IN THE PAST AND IT IS WILL PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

7. SHORTLY AFTER YESTERDAY'S INCIDENTS, CAPCOM COMMANDER BGEN ALEXANDER AGUIRRE CALLED RSO OFFERING ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY IN MANILA. RESPONDING TO THE RSO'S SUGGESTION, CAPCOM DISPATCHED POLICE TO GUARD CHOKE POINTS AT ENTRANCES TO MAKATI HOUSING AREAS WHERE MOST AMERICANS LIVE AND TO PATROL A CONGESTED ROAD FREQUENTLY TRAVELED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

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THESE ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE SPOTS FOR ASSASSINATION  
ATTEMPTS. THE MISSION HAS ADVISED STAFF AND FAMILIES TO  
TAKE EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND CURTAIL UNNECESSARY  
TRAVEL TO THE ANGELES CITY AREA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE  
ALSO HAVE ACTIVATED THE EXTERNAL WARDEN SYSTEM TO ADVISE  
PRIVATE AMERICANS IN MANILA OF THIS POTENTIAL INCREASED  
THREAT. PLATT  
END OF MESSAGE

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